

1 ³21. (Amended) The method of claim ¹20 [wherein] in which the step of accessing a surface of the heart
2 comprises [a cutting] providing access through an intercostal space.

1 ³22. (Amended) The method of claim ¹20 [wherein] in which the step of accessing a surface of the heart
2 comprises inserting an endoscope and a cutting instrument through the chest wall and cutting
3 through the pericardium with the cutting instrument.

1 ⁴23. (Amended) The method of claim ¹20 further comprising the steps of:
2 positioning a second member having [a second] at least one secondary suction port on the
3 surface of the heart;
4 coupling [a] the first suction source or another suction source to [the] any secondary
5 suction port of the second member;
6 grasping the surface of the heart with the suction in [the second] any secondary suction
7 port; and
8 fixing the second member to the stationary object.

1 ⁵24. (Amended) The method of claim ⁴23 further comprising the [steps] step of moving the first member away
2 from the second member. while maintaining the first member and the second member in
3 grasping contact with the surface of the heart.

1 ⁶25. (Amended) A method of immobilizing an area of tissue comprising:
2 contacting at least one primary [a first] suction port on a first paddle to a planar surface of
3 tissue;
4 contacting at least one secondary [a second] suction port on a second paddle to the planar
5 surface of the tissue;
6 creating a suction in [the first] at least one primary suction port to cause the first [suction
7 port] paddle to grasp the planar surface of the tissue;
8 creating a suction in [the second] at least one secondary suction port to cause the second
9 [suction port] paddle to grasp the planar surface of the tissue;
10 moving the first paddle away from the second paddle along the planar surface of the tissue;
11 and
12 [fixing the first paddle to a stationary object; and]
13 fixing at least one of the first and second [paddle] paddles to a stationary object.

1 ⁷~~26~~. (Amended) A method of [performing] immobilizing tissue during open or closed chest cardiac surgery
2 comprising:
3 accessing a surface of the heart;
4 positioning a first member having at least one primary [a first] suction port along a first
5 planar surface on the surface of the heart;
6 coupling a first suction source to [the] at least one primary suction port of the first
7 member;
8 creating a suction with the first suction source, the created suction then communicated to
9 [the first] at least one primary suction port;
10 grasping the surface of the heart with the suction in [the first] at least one primary suction
11 port; and
12 fixing the first member to a stationary object.

1 ⁸~~27~~. (Amended) The method of claim ⁷~~26~~ [wherein] in which the step of accessing a surface of the heart
2 comprises [a cutting] providing access through an intercostal space.

1 ⁹~~28~~. (Amended) The method of claim ⁷~~26~~ [wherein] in which the step of accessing a surface of the heart
2 comprises inserting an endoscope and a cutting instrument through the chest wall and cutting
3 through the pericardium with the cutting instrument.

1 ¹⁰~~29~~. (Amended) The method of claim ⁷~~26~~ [wherein] in which the step of positioning a first member having a first
2 suction port along a first planar surface on the surface of the heart further comprises the steps
3 of providing a first member having a first semicircular arm, the first semicircular arm having
4 the first suction port disposed along a first planar surface of the first semicircular arm.

1 ¹¹~~30~~. (Amended) The method of claim ⁷~~26~~ [wherein] in which the step of positioning a first member having a first
2 suction port along a first planar surface on the surface of the heart further comprises the steps
3 of providing a first member having a first semicircular arm and a second semicircular arm, the
4 second semicircular arm being disposed opposite the first semicircular arm [wherein] to form a
5 substantially circular [are] area between the semicircular arms.

1 ¹²~~31~~. (Amended) The method of claim ⁷~~26~~ further comprising the steps of:
2 positioning a second member having a second suction port along a second planar surface on
3 the surface of the heart;
4 coupling [a] the first suction source or another suction source to the suction port of the
5 second member;
6 grasping the surface of the heart with the suction in the second suction port; and
7 fixing the second member to the stationary object.